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I CLAIM:

1. A retaining wall comprising:  
a first set of one or more courses, at least a portion of each comprising a  
5 plurality of unitary blocks placed side-by-side with respect to each; and  
a second set of one or more courses, at least a portion of each comprising a  
plurality of block assemblies placed side-by-side with respect to each other, each block  
assembly comprising at least two interconnected block components;  
wherein the first set of one or more courses is located above or below the second  
10 set of one or more courses.
2. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein the first set of one or more  
courses overlays the second set of one or more courses.
- 15 3. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein the second set of one or more  
overlays the second set of one or more courses.
4. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein:  
the first set of one or more courses comprises first and second courses of unitary  
20 blocks; and

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the wall further comprises a tie-back sheet positioned between the first and second courses and extending rearwardly into fill material retained behind the wall.

5. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein each block assembly comprises:
- 5 a face block having a front surface exposed in the front surface of the wall;
- at least one anchor block; and
- at least one elongated trunk block extending between the face block and the anchor block, the trunk block having a first end portion connected to the face block and a second end portion connected to the anchor block.

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6. The retaining wall of claim 5, wherein the face block of each block assembly has a dovetail connector element that interconnects with a complementary dovetail connector element of the first end portion of a respective trunk block, and the
- 15 anchor block of each block assembly has a dovetail connector element that interconnects with a complementary dovetail connector element of the second end portion of a respective trunk block.

7. The retaining wall of claim 5, wherein each block assembly comprises:
- 20 a first trunk block connected to and extending rearwardly from a respective face block;

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a first anchor block connected to the first trunk block opposite the face block;  
a second trunk block connected to and extending rearwardly from the first  
anchor block; and  
a second anchor block connected to the second trunk block opposite the first  
5 anchor block.

8. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein each unitary block comprises a  
front portion, two wall portions extending rearwardly from the front portion, a rear  
portion connected to the wall portions opposite the front portion, and a core defined by  
10 the front portion, the wall portions, and the rear portion.

9. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein the unitary blocks are coupled to  
the block assemblies of a vertically adjacent course with block-connecting elements.

15 10. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein:  
the first set of one or more courses comprises a first, lower course of unitary  
blocks and a second, upper course of unitary blocks; and  
the second set of one or more courses comprises a first, lower course of block  
assemblies and a second, upper course of block assemblies.

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11. The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein:

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each unitary block of the second course of unitary blocks is positioned on two unitary blocks of the first course of unitary blocks; and

each block assembly of the second course of block assemblies is positioned on two block assemblies of the first course of block assemblies.

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12. The retaining wall of claim 11, wherein each unitary block of the second course of unitary blocks is connected to two unitary blocks of the first course of unitary blocks.

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13. The retaining wall of claim 11, wherein each block assembly of the second course of block assemblies is connected to two block assemblies of the first course of block assemblies.

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14. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein each block assembly has a depth that is greater than the depth of the unitary blocks.

15. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein chambers containing fill material are defined between horizontally adjacent block assemblies.

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16. The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein chambers containing fill material are defined between horizontally adjacent unitary blocks.

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17. A retaining wall comprising:  
a plurality of courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of unitary  
blocks placed side-by-side with respect to each other in respective courses; and  
5 a plurality of courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of block  
assemblies placed side-by-side with respect to each other in respective courses, each  
block assembly comprising at least a first block and second block connected to the first  
block and extending rearwardly therefrom;  
wherein courses including said unitary blocks are located above or below  
10 courses including said block assemblies.

18. The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein the courses including said  
unitary blocks are located above the courses including said block assemblies.

- 15 19. The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein the courses including said  
unitary blocks are located below the courses including said block assemblies.

20. The retaining wall of claim 17, further comprising at least one wall-  
reinforcing sheet disposed between two vertically adjacent courses including said  
20 unitary blocks and extending rearwardly into earth retained behind the retaining wall.

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21. The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each unitary block has a depth that is less than the depth of the block assemblies.

22. The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each block assembly comprises a  
5 generally I-shaped assembly having a front block, an elongated trunk block connected to the front block and extending rearwardly and generally perpendicularly therefrom, and a rear block connected to the trunk block opposite the front block, the rear block being disposed in a generally parallel relationship with respect to the front block.

10 23. The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each course is set back from an adjacent lower course to form a sloped wall face.

24. The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each unitary block has a width that is equal to the width of the block assemblies.

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25. The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each unitary block has a height that is equal to the height of the block assemblies.

26. A retaining wall comprising:  
20 a plurality of courses, a portion of each comprising a plurality of single blocks arranged side-by-side;

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at least one tie-back sheet disposed between single blocks in adjacent courses;  
a plurality of different courses, a portion of each comprising a plurality of block  
assemblies arranged side-by-side, each block assembly comprising a front block, at  
least one elongated trunk block connected to and extending rearwardly from the front  
5 block, and at least one anchor block connected to the trunk block opposite the front  
block; and

wherein the courses including the single blocks are located above or below the  
courses including the block assemblies.

10 27. The retaining wall of claim 26, wherein the trunk block of each block  
assembly is connected at one end thereof to a respective front block with a dovetail  
connection and at an opposite end thereof to a respective anchor block with a dovetail  
connection.

15 28. The retaining wall of claim 27, wherein chambers filled with fill material  
are defined between adjacent block assemblies in each course.

29. A method of constructing a retaining wall, the method comprising:  
forming a portion of at least one course from a plurality of single blocks; and  
20 forming a portion of at least one different course from a plurality of block  
assemblies, each block assembly having at least two interlocking block components.

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30. The method of claim 29, wherein the course that includes the single blocks is constructed on top of the course that includes the block assemblies.

5 31. The method of claim 29, wherein the course that includes the block assemblies is constructed on top of the course that includes the single blocks.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein forming a portion at least one course from a plurality of single blocks comprises forming portions of a plurality of courses  
10 from single blocks.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising positioning a tie-back sheet between single blocks in the adjacent courses, the tie-back sheet extending rearwardly into fill material retained behind the wall.

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34. The method of claim 29, wherein forming a portion of at least one course from a plurality of block assemblies comprises forming portions of a plurality of courses from block assemblies.



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35. The method of claim 29, wherein forming a portion of at least one course from a plurality of block assemblies comprises assembling the interlocking block components to form the block assemblies.